MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They were getting stipends then.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Do not the Government consider that the present cut would seriously affect these lowpaid officers?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It naturally affects all officers who have suffered it, low-paid or high-paid.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Does it not affect the low-paid officers to a greater extent?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It need not necessarily affect them more, because their allowance is comparatively small.

Appointment of Supervisors in the Public Works Department during 1105—1106.

460. MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they will lay on the table a list showing the names and qualifications of P. W. D. Supervisors appointed from 1-5-1105 till the end of 1106;

(*b*) whether there are any instances in which juniors among the acting hands were retained in service while seniors were disbanded during 1105 and 1106;

(*c*) whether the acting hands already disbanded during 1105 and 1106 are to be re-entertained in service, and, if so, on what principle;

(*d*) whether there are instances in which the claims of those who have acted were overlooked and outsiders recommended during 1105 and 1106; and

(*e*) whether there are any rules formulated by them or the Chief Engineer for guidance regarding this matter, and, if so, whether they will lay a copy of the same on the table?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The list* is placed on the table.

(*b*) Yes, when Government interest and consideration of merit needed it.

(*c*) Yes, when suitable vacancies occur provided the reports about them during their acting period were satisfactory. Their re-entertainment will be based on their qualifications, previous acting service and merit.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) No. The question of formulating rules is under the consideration of Government.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : With reference to the answer to part (*b*), may I take it that when the juniors were retained in service in preference to seniors, the seniors had been found inefficient?

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MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : Some of these officers have been appointed for specific temporaray works, and they have to be retained in service till such work, for which they have been appointed, is over, whether they are juniors or seniors.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : The answer does not say so. It says that, when Government interest and considerations of merit needed it, juniors were retained in service while seniors were disbanded. That is why I want to know whether such seniors who were disbanded, were found to be inefficient?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Some of them were not qualified enough for the posts.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know whether, among persons possessing the same qualification, consideration of merit weighed with Government, and seniors were sent away while juniors were retained ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): There are such instances also.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With reference to part (c), may I know whether a person with a lower qualification will be preferred to one with higher qualification, on the ground of merit ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : The answer is there. "Their re-entertainment will be based on their qualifications, previous acting service and *merit*."

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : It is with reference to "*merit*" that I ask whether it may happen that the Government find more of the "merit" in a person with lower qualification than in one with higher qualification ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : That is entirely left to the discretion of the Chief Engineer.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Is it left absolutely to the discretion of the Chief Engineer ?

Mr. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): But he will follow certain principles in exercising his discretion.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Leaving alone the case of men with equal qualification, can there be any principle in prefering a man with lower qualification to one with higher qualification ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Govennment*): If the former has the minimum qualification necessary for the post and if he is found to be very efficient, he may be preferred.

Local allowances to the Personal Assistants of the Inspecting officers of the Education Department.

401. MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have recently passed orders abolishing the local allowances to the Personal Assistants of the three Inspecting officers of the Education Department, *viz.*, the Inspectors of English and Vernacular Schools and the Inspectress of Girls' Schools ?

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